



# The California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys

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A Tool to Assess School Climate,  
Campus Safety, and Pupil Engagement



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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# Did you know?



## Among our 1.9 million high school students:

- One-third report being bullied or harassed at school
- Forty percent do not feel safe at school
- Twenty-four percent experienced cyber bullying
- Nine percent report carrying a gun or weapon to school at least once
- Eighteen percent of ninth graders are afraid of being beaten up (23 percent)





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# Did you know? (Cont.)

- One-third **cannot** report at least one **caring adult** at school
- One-third report **no** teacher or adult at school believes that they will be a success (low expectation)
- One-half do not feel being **part of their school**
- One-third report **chronic sadness**





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# Cal-SCHLS

- The California Department of Education (CDE) owns a data collection system that provides data for school improvements in **multiple levels.**
- Three linked school-based kindergarten through grade 12 (K–12) assessment tools:
  - **California Healthy Kids Survey** (CHKS, 1999)
  - **California School Climate Survey** of staff (CSCS, 2004)
  - **California School Parent Survey** (CSPS, 2011)



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# Cal-SCHLS

- Developed to fulfill federal Safe and Drug Free Schools (Title IV) Program requirements.
- Now **voluntary** with the defunding of Title IV (except for districts that receive grants under the CDE's Tobacco-Use and Prevention Education [TUPE]).
- Transformed into a tool focused on assessing **school climate** and providing data to guide school improvement.



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# Cal-SCHLS

- **Comparable** across schools and districts and support County and State Planning
- Can be **customized**
- Students: grades five, seven, nine, and eleven
- Staff/Parents: all grades
- Both **print and online** versions
- District receives district-level report, administration and data use guides, and support materials



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# Survey Participation

- Under Title IV (2003–2010)
  - 850+ districts, 7000+ schools, 1M students, 100K staff
- Declined one-third 2011–13 (largely elementary)
- In 2013–14 rebounded by 18 percent
  - Mostly due to LCAP
  - Administered by 450 districts among 414,177 students
- Anticipate the need to address all state priorities in the LCAP will increase use of the survey to pre-2011 levels





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# Low Cost

- A thirty cent fee per enrolled student per grade covers both CHKS and CSCS
  - Half of districts <\$130
  - Next 20 percent, \$150–\$350
  - Largest 10 percent, \$1,000 (based on 900 per grade sampling plan)
- School-level reports: \$50
- School Climate Report Cards: \$100



# Secondary School Climate Report Card

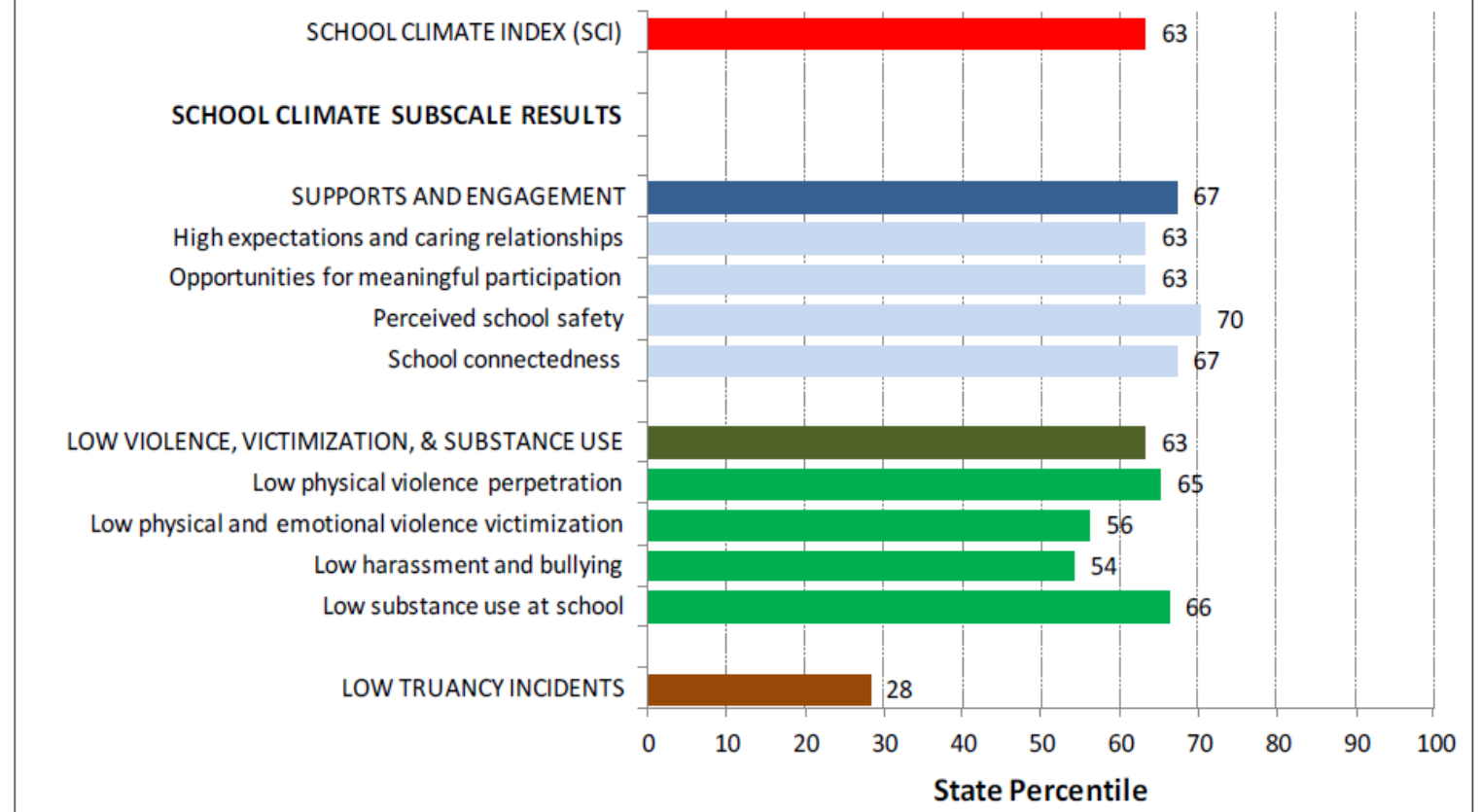


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## School Climate Index (SCI)

	Score <sup>A</sup>	State Percentile <sup>B</sup>	Similar Schools Percentile <sup>C</sup>
School Climate Index <sup>D</sup>	317	63	86

## School Climate Characteristics as State Percentiles - Student Reports/Incident Data





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# School Variables Assessed

- School connectedness, learning engagement, and student performance
- Academic rigor
- Academic mindset (motivation, perseverance)
- Relationships between and among students/staff
- Perceived safety, discipline, and order
- Violence and victimization (bullying)
- Substance use and availability at school
- Respect for diversity and equity
- Physical environment
- Parent involvement
- Supports, services, and policies to address needs of students and staff



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# California Healthy Kids Survey Secondary Supplementary Modules

- School Climate
- Resilience and Youth Development
- Social-Emotional Health and Learning
- Alcohol and other Drugs Use and Tobacco Use
- Safety/Violence
- Physical Health
- Sexual Behavior
- Afterschool Module
- Gang Risk Awareness
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender School Experiences
- Military Connected Schools



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# Data Availability (California Healthy Kids Survey/California School Climate Survey)

- **District, county, and state-level** data reports posted on websites
- **School** reports (when requested) through districts
- **Online** through *Query CHKS*, a partnership with kidsdata.org
  - District, county, and state level
  - Selected cross-tabs
  - Data graphing
- **Datasets** on request (low preparation fee)
- **Custom** reports



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# Value of Data

- Demonstrate **need** for and obtain **funding**
- Guide **programmatic action planning**
- Used by **multiple stakeholders** in education, public health, mental health, social services, and research etc.
- Foster **school-community collaboration**
- **Evaluation and Accountability**
  - Do schools that receive program funding have better outcomes than schools without?
- Determine **student groups in greatest needs:**
  - E.g., Race/ethnicity, gender, socio economic status, homeless, foster youth, military-connected



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# Supporting School Success

- Assesses how supportive school climate is at fostering learning engagement needed for school success
- CHKS Core and supplements measure “non-cognitive” skills required of students and assess:
  - Persistence (grit)
  - Collaboration and cooperation
  - Problem solving
  - Academic mindset



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# Local Control and Accountability Plan

- Single most valuable tool for developing, guiding, and monitoring an effective LCAP
- Data to validate multiple **state priorities**
  - School climate
  - Pupil engagement
  - Parent involvement
  - Academic achievement (overarching)
  - SBE-adopted standards
- Compare outcomes with similar schools
- Add questions to assess local priorities
- Assess achievement, other needs, among **subgroups** (e.g., ethnicity, foster, homeless)





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*Appendix to Page 9 Bar Chart*

**California Safe and Supportive Schools Project  
Secondary School Climate Report Card**

<b>School Climate Index</b>	<b>Score:</b> <b>317</b>	<b>State Percentile:</b> <b>63</b>	<b>Similar Schools Percentile:</b> <b>86</b>
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**School Climate Characteristics as State Percentiles – Student Reports/Incident Data  
School Climate Subscale Results**

<b>School Climate Characteristic</b>	<b>State Percentile</b>
<b>Supports and Engagement</b>	67
High expectations and caring relationships	63
Opportunities for meaningful participation	63
Perceived school safety	70
School connectedness	67
<b>Low Violence, Victimization, &amp; Substance Use</b>	63
Low physical violence perpetration	65
Low physical and emotional violence victimization	56
Low harassment and bullying	54
Low substance use at school	66
Low Truancy Incidents	28